

### Economic Barometers Vary on Outlook for Future Prosperity

When any boom has lasted as long and gone as high as this one it's time to ask: "When will it end, and what will trip it?" For the benefit of anyone who yearns for the profit and prestige of calling the turn correctly, here are some straws which have gauged the wind in the past:

Steel demand. A downturn in steel demand is an early forerunner of recession. Right now, steel mills are booked into April of next year, and the July price rise didn't cause a murmur from users.

Copper. Copper use is a sensitive index of future construction and plant equipment sales. So far this month the price of copper has fallen 7 cents a pound for new metal and 4 1/2 cents for secondary supplies.

Interest rates. Ordinarily, money borrowed for long periods costs more per year than money borrowed for brief ones. In really prosperous periods, short-term money demands a premium. Right now, short-term money costs less than long-term money—as long-term, it's the first time in 25 years that this has been true.

The stock market. On these charts the market analysts keep—which most of us can't make head or tail of—the market since President Eisenhower's illness shows an open gap. People with profits couldn't sell fast enough to cash in. If the market goes up, those people will be ready to sell and beat it back down. If it slides further, some of them will sell to save something of their gains.

So there are four excellent barometers—two dials reading "Fair" and two reading "Storm."

**UPGRADED STANDBY**—A series of discoveries aimed at upgrading natural fibers may lead to partial comeback for King Cotton, who in recent years has been pretty well dethroned by such synthetic "pretenders" as nylon and rayon.

The latest development—a process which treats cotton yarn with a special rubber latex—comes from the Southern Research Institute in Alabama, one of the leading cotton growing states. It produces a colorfast cotton denim with greatly improved wearing qualities. Moreover, this denim can be laundered safely with other clothes, even sheets. This, the Institute says, is a boon to retailers who must launder and keep in repair the family's work and play garments.

B. F. Goodrich Chemical Co., which developed the Hycar latex used in the process, says the upgraded denim should find broader markets for work and play clothes, and should open up an entirely new field in sportswear, now that colorfastness makes it possible to trim denim garments with fabrics of colors.

**THINGS TO COME**—Kitchen mixers in two-tone color combinations. . . New pad for use under desks and chairs in the office said to combine non-skid comfort as well as rug-covering protection. . . Cardboard device to warn housewives when frozen food packages have been exposed to warmth so they won't re-freeze them. . . Additions to baby food line include strained macaroni, tomatoes, beef and bacon. . . Two new 8-mm movie cameras—one an inexpensive model of the Bionnie type, the other higher priced.

### Stork Story

she made her debut at Torrance Memorial Hospital with her arrival clocked at 7:30 a.m., and birth weight 7 lb. 10 oz. Lomita grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Meher and Mrs. Viola Harp of Oxnard, Calif.

Welcoming their fourth child on Sept. 20 at Torrance Memorial Hospital were Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hammes of 5301 Sunnyside St. Their second son, Ronald Frederick balanced the nursery scales at 8 lb. 1 oz. He is brother to Marcelene Gay, 5; Barbara Lynn, 7, and David Paul, 3. Wisconsin grandmother is Mrs. Elenora Schoepf and Mrs. T. Ernest of Winfield, Kan.

Randy Paul is the first son for Mr. and Mrs. Paul W. Hand of Gardena. Registering an 8 lb. 8 1/2 oz. birth weight, he was a Sept. 19, admitted guest at Torrance Memorial Hospital. His arrival was clocked at 4:18 p.m. He is grandson to Gardena grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Still and Mrs. Freda Parlor.

Making it two daughters in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Bogdan of 1024 W. 208th St., is Stephanie Jean who joined the family Sept. 20 at 7:54 a.m., at Torrance Memorial Hospital. Her 20 months old sister is Mary Therese. Grandparents of the 7 lb. newcomer are Mr. and Mrs. George Ahrendt of Torrance and Mr. and Mrs. John Bogdan of Berwyn, Ill.

**EGG OUTPUT**—Two American hens now average as many eggs each year as the laying capacity of three hens 25 years ago.

claims of certain groups, but generally speaking the factory worker fared better than the white-collar man.

**BITS OF BUSINESS**—Construction outlays in September crossed the \$4 billion mark, highest for any month in history. . . British gold and dollar reserves declined \$12 million in September. . . Woolen cloth production in the first half of 1955 was 4 per cent above the 1954 level. . . Nine months' earnings for banks in the New York Clearing House were 15 per cent, on the average, above last year's.

### SMALL FIRMS HELP—A nationwide survey has just revealed that dollars for defense and civilian aircraft orders go into the remotest parts of this nation.

For example Republic Aviation Corp., one of the nation's leading aircraft firms, reported that last year it bought \$307 million worth of parts and materials from 100 subcontractors and suppliers all over the country. Of these firms, 972—or 75 per cent—had fewer than 500 employees each, coming under the government's definition of "small business."

Manufacturing by small firms is so important in Republic's program that the company has designated a top executive, C. E. Reid, as small-business liaison officer. He works with military and government officials and with his staff, serves as an information center for small firms. He directs 280 procurement specialists of the Farmingdale, N. Y., jet plane firm.

Reid says the company's program conforms to government policy for broad-based procurement of defense items. When prime contractors buy subassemblies from many other firms, the network of subcontractors remains healthy and defense production can expand rapidly in any emergency.

**CLOSING THE RANKS**—Full or nearly full employment, and the widespread practice of granting across-the-board wage increases in cents per hour, have pulled the wage patterns of American business into a tighter structure than at any time since records have been kept, the Department of Commerce reports.

Very high-paid and very low-paid workers are fewer than they were before World War II, the lowest since 1917, in number of workers, accounted for only 3 per cent of total income and the top one-fifth got 42 per cent. (The difference, of course, is not so much in rates as in the amount of time each spends on the job.) The middle three-fifths accounted for 55 per cent. Union membership, the study showed, didn't have much apparent effect moving up the

### Douglas Sponsors Second Truck 'Roadeo' Saturday

The second annual Douglas Aircraft El Segundo Division Truck 'Roadeo' will be held Saturday beginning at 9 a.m., according to W. C. Woodley, transportation department administrator.

Participating will be truck drivers from the El Segundo plant and the Torrance facility. More than 30 drivers will compete for the perpetual trophy award which last year went to Frank Stone and Leonard Trader, respective winners of the heavy and light class competition. The single trophy is awarded jointly to the two class winners.

The Roadeo will be divided into six categories to determine safety and driving skill, and will be broken down into two classes—1 1/2 ton trucks and 35 foot semi-trucks.

Drivers will be required to drive down an offset alley course marked by traffic "cones" with a clearance of only 26" over the width of the rolling equipment, and will make a right turn into a second intersecting alley with

minimum wheel clearance.

In the second phase of the Roadeo, drivers will park their trucks parallel to the curb in an area with only a six foot overage from the length of the truck.

The third driving skill test will be down a straight line between two rows of rubber balls spaced slightly further apart than the width of the dual wheels.

Judges Named—The fourth event will be run down a line of diminishing clearance, ranging from one foot to three inches.

A stop test, with accuracy determined by closeness to the designated stop zone, will be the fifth skill test.

Judges and officials will be made up of Transportation Department officials, headed by T. H. Wilson, El Segundo foreman, and J. L. Tracey, foreman of the Torrance facility. Transportation Department, El Segundo Division Transportation Department administrator W. C. Woodley will be in overall charge of the Roadeo.

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